

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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To: Rice Industry

CLARIFICATION NOTICE**Scope and Cost of Rice Certification Proposal**

The Department of Food and Agriculture recently mailed a notice to interested parties of a proposed regulation pertaining to field crop inspection and certification. The proposal establishes an identity preservation program which will require commercial impact rice to be produced, planted, harvested, transported, dried, stored or otherwise handled in accordance with a specific protocol that maintains the integrity of the rice variety.

The purpose of this mailing is to clarify statements in the proposed regulation relative to persons that will be impacted and the cost of the program. Specifically, the section entitled "Cost Impacts on Representative Private Persons or Business" should provide as follows.

This proposed regulation applies only to persons growing and handling the following rice varieties: A-201, A-301, Calmati 201, Akita Komachi, Calhikari 201, Calmochi 101, Calpearl, Hitomebore, Koshihikari, NFD 108, NFD 109, SP-2, Sasanishiki, Surpass, WRS-4431, Arborio Calriso, Koganemochi, LBJ 489 "Black Japonica," LWE 218 "Wehani," HKB 102 "Hong Kong Black," Sun West "Rojito," and Sun West "Black Rice."

State law provides that assessments to fund the operational costs of the identity preservation program will be paid by (1) persons selling or distributing the rice seed subject to the proposed regulation in an amount not to exceed five dollars (\$5.00) per hundredweight; or (2) the first in-state handler of paddy or brown rice subject to the proposed regulation, or of seed brought into the state from outside California subject to the proposed regulation, in an amount not to exceed ten cents (\$0.10) per hundredweight. The actual assessment rate will be established once the program is implemented.